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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 5, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

With the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), we succeeded in mobilizing the support of heads of state and of the people throughout the region, who committed themselves to revitalizing their economies through greater reliance on foreign investment and private sector-led growth and development. The CBI has raised great expectations; we must continue to help our deserving friends take advantage of the opportunities that the CBI offers. Although you already have accomplished a great deal in implementing the CBI, the severity of the region's economic and political problems requires that we intensify our efforts for our policies to succeed.

The success of our overall policy is directly linked to what the private sector can accomplish in the economic and commercial areas. We need to maintain our commitment to the nations of the region. I therefore direct all Administration officials to give programs relating to the Caribbean Basin their personal attention and the institutional support needed for success. I direct agencies involved in implementing the CBI to reinforce their efforts individually and cooperatively within the Caribbean Basin Task Force under the direction of Ambassador Brock so as to successfully implement this vital program. The Task Force should be informed by agencies regarding all significant issues affecting trade and investment in the region and should be consulted on such matters well in advance of any decisions that could run contrary to the intent of the CBI. The Task Force will be expected to make recommendations to me for strengthening CBI implementation in its periodic reports on CBI implementation policy and activities.

The CBI remains personally important to me and important to the future of our Nation.

Ronald Reagan

